

USAID'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM IN BANGLADESH



(Signing ceremony for the ATSEC and BNWLA Agreements as witnessed by Sec. State Albright and visiting members of congress.)

USAID/Dhaka's anti-trafficking strategy is built on five basic pillars:

- *Appropriate, targeted research;*
- *Strengthening Bangladesh's anti-trafficking network (ATSEC);*
- *Supporting NGO/CBO capacity building;*
- *Prosecution and protection (rehabilitation); and*
- *Developing and implementing appropriate, targeted anti-trafficking prevention efforts.*

RESEARCH: USAID/Dhaka's anti-trafficking research program in Bangladesh includes the following: a literature review; a non-government organization (NGO) inventory; mapping exercises to track at-risk areas; a "best practices" assessment; creation of a survivor database; a community-level trafficking awareness survey; and market research to develop a nationwide anti-trafficking awareness campaign.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING NETWORK (ATSEC): USAID/Dhaka is providing support to "Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC)", a national anti-trafficking network, to implement the following: link NGOs and Government entities into a strong partnership; establish a focal point for moving the national anti-trafficking agenda forward; establish a resource center to disseminate data on the subject; and provide technical support to grassroots organizations.

CAPACITY BUILDING: Many NGOs working on the trafficking issue require technical support to help them to build up their capacity to implement and monitor their programs. USAID/Dhaka is funding on-site coaching; workshops and seminars to improve skills; joint monitoring of field activities to share lessons learned; and exercises that focus on identifying "best practices".

PROSECUTION AND PROTECTION (Rehabilitation): USAID/Dhaka is funding the Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA), one of the most prominent of the NGOs focusing on trafficking, to address both protection and prosecution related activities. BNWLA will assist in providing trafficking victims with legal aid, rehabilitation, and repatriation support services. BNWLA will also use a portion of this funding to provide assistance to the Government of Bangladesh to prosecute traffickers.

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES: USAID/Dhaka is providing funding to ATSEC to develop culturally sensitive prevention and awareness messages that will reach the community level. The program will develop and test materials for a national campaign (all media); "roll out" this campaign in 20 districts; conduct awareness raising workshops/meetings (all levels); launch school programs; establish a mobile campaign unit for rural dissemination; launch a border campaign and popular theater/street drama.